

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT TERRY ROBARDS BYLINER NEW YORK
TIMES PAGE 29, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, HEADLINED "EUROPE IS
SURPRISED AND SYMPATHETIC".

2. LONDON. JUNE 12 - SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S
THREAT TO RESIGN OVER ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN
ILLEGAL WIRETAPPING AROUSED SURPRISE AND FEELINGS OF
SYMPATHY IN THE EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY TODAY.

3. EUROPEANS GENERALLY HOLD MR. KISSINGER IN HIGH REGARD,
TENDING TO SEE HIM AS THE MAN WHO NEGOTIATED PEACE IN VIET-
NAM AND WORKED OUT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

4. WATERGATE AND THE OTHER DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE
NIXON ADMINISTRATION ARE EITHER NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD
IN EUROPE OR ARE DISCOUNTED AS EXAGGERATED BY THE NEWS
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MEDIA,

5; DIPLOMATS AND POLITICIANS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD CHOOSE A EUROPEAN SETTING TO MAKE COMMENTS ABOUT A MATTER THAT THEY VIEW AS MAINLY DOMESTIC. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF

ALARM AT THE EMOTIONAL TONE OF HIS REMARKS.

6. THREAT WIDELY REPORTED MR. KISSINGER'S THREAT TO RESIGN OVER ALLEGATIONS OF "ILLEGAL OR SHADY ACTIVITY" MADE YESTERDAY AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON IN THE EUROPEAN PRESS. MR. KISSINGER'S TENSENESS AND ANGER IN SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN WERE MENTIONED PROMINENTLY IN MANY NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.

7. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN GENERAL DECLINED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE SITUATION, BUT PRIVATELY THEY EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH MR. KISSINGER'S POSITION. MANY SEEMED TO ASSUME THAT HIS ANGER HAD BEEN FULLY JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE.

8. IN BRUSSELS, A BELGIAN DIPLOMAT SAID IT WAS "INCONCEIVABLE FOR EUROPEANS THAT KISSINGER WOULD LOSE HIS POST BECAUSE OF A MATTER LIKE THE WIRETAPS PROBLEM."

9; IN BONN, AMERICANS WERE BOMBARDED WITH QUESTIONS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? DOES HE REALLY MEAN IT? WHAT DID HE DO?

10. THE WIRETAPPING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND OTHERS IS A MATTER THAT AROUSES LITTLE SURPRISE IN MOST EUROPEAN CAPITALS, WHERE OFFICIAL EAVESDROPPING IS REGARDED--PERHAPS ERRONEOUSLY--AS A COMMON PRACTICE.

11. IN GENEVA MR. KISSINGER IS BEING THOUGHT OF AS A VICTIM OF AN AFFAIR THAT CONCERNS HIM ONLY BECAUSE HE IS A LEADING FIGURE IN A TARNISHED ADMINISTRATION. DIPLOMATS EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE "ATTACKED" JUST AFTER HIS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MIDDLE EAST

12. IN LONDON, MR. KISSINGER'S NEWS CONFERENCE WAS THE LEAD ARTICLE IN MOST OF THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS, BUT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATS WERE NOT COMMENTING. THERE SEEMED TO BE A DISINCLINATION TO TAKE HIS RESIGNATION THREAT SERIOUSLY;

13. EUROPEANS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS
SERIOUS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AT HOME BECAUSE OF THE
WATERGATE SCANDAL AND THEY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE
DID NOT FINISH HIS PRESENT TERM, EITHER BECAUSE OF A

DECISION TO RESIGN OR BECAUSE OF AN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDING.

14. BUT THEY HAVE BEEN ASSUMING THAT AMERICAN RELATIONS
WITH EUROPE WOULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IF THE PRESIDENT
WERE TO LEAVE OFFICE, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSING PRE-
SENCE OF MR; KISSINGER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THUS, MR
KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE WOULD BE ALARMING.

15. "HIS RESIGNATION WOULD BE FAR MORE ALARMING TO THE
WORLD THAN THAT OF MR. NIXON" THE TIMES OF LONDON SAID
EDITORIALLY.

16. AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THEY SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE
SECRETARY OF STATE WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE AND THAT HIS
THREAT TO RESIGN WAS ISSUED EITHER AS A DOMESTIC
POLITICAL MANEUVER OR BECAUSE HE WAS OVERWROUGHT AFTER
34 DAYS OF INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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